

Connecting Democracy & Human Rights NGOs in Togo

Since 2000, US Embassy Lome has funded 95 projects promoting different tenants within human rights: women's rights, children's rights, civic education, local elections and fights against corruption, child trafficking and female genital mutilation. More than 58 different NGOs joined Ambassador Hawkins and the U.S. Embassy on July 15, 2011 to form an official network of human rights organizations in Togo. Via democratic elections, a committee of 9 members from different NGOs was created to meet quarterly and share ideas, expertise and resources. Also in attendance was the National Democratic Institution, E.U., CNDC and DHRF Coordinator. The first committee meeting will take place in August.



First Annual Self Help Fair

U.S. Embassy Lome hosted the first annual Self Help Fair on June 24-25, 2011. Almost 50 organizations participated. Groups consisted of past Self Help grantees and organizations of women, children, and people living with disabilities that produce various goods to generate income for their families and communities. They brought a variety of products to sell (oils, pagne, shoes, spices, etc.) and information on their community organizations to share. The event was a huge success and plans are in the works for a 2012 Fair!

Influenza in West Africa?

In Togo, many patients are wrongly treated for Malaria when in fact they have the flu. Influenza is poorly understood throughout Africa and immunization is not available. There is very little research on flu strands specific to Africa, which are necessary to develop effective regional immunizations. The U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and Naval Medical Research Group are working to change this. Lome will soon be added to the W. African countries participating in Influenza research and training at a National Military Health Center in Lome. Learn more at www.cdc.gov.



Sponsor Visits

Thanks to Serge Soya and Raymond Sewonu for visiting five different Self Help projects in July. Serge visited two different pig & chicken military income generating projects and was particularly impressed with the Kpalime Gendarmerie's group management. Raymond visited the Sokode Gendarmerie's Liquid Soap project run by military wives. It is so successful that the group has 5 new female members and sales are high. He also helped evaluate a possible sheep breeding project for FY11.

Partner Feature: AMACACH

A primary focus of US Embassy Lome's development efforts go towards HIV/AIDS programs. AMACACH is an important local partner in our fight against HIV/AIDS, made up of Togolese military and family affected by HIV/AIDS. Infection rates are significantly higher among military personnel than the general Togolese public (% vs. 3%, MoH 2009). AMACACH works to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, support preventative methods, assist those living with the disease in accessing treatment, and provide support in skills training and education for the entire family.

